

REMARKS

The objections to the drawings, Specification and the claims are deemed addressed by the foregoing amendments. Respectfully, however, the word "means" when used as part of the expression "by means of" is not an objectionable legal expression. That is, any word has to be read contextually. When so read, it should have been clear that "means" in the Abstract of the present application was not a means plus function expression as encompassed by 35 USC §112, ¶6.

Likewise, the rejection of Claims 1-13 and 18 under 35 USC 112, 2 is traversed, and reconsideration is requested in light of the foregoing claim amendments addressed to the objections or questions raised in the Office Action as well as eliminate duplicate or unnecessary terms in the claims.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating the allowability of Claims 6, 7, 9-13, 18-20 and 22-26. The subject matter of allowable Claim 6, including that of intervening Claim 3, has been incorporated in Claim 1 taking into account the Examiner's objections made under 35 USC §112 ¶2. Similarly, the subject matter of allowable Claim 18 (apparently erroneously include in the §102(b) rejection in paragraph 11 of the Office Action), including its intervening claim has been included in Claim 14. Accordingly, the rejection based on Szigeti under 35 USC §102(b) is deemed moot and requires no further discussion.

Serial No. 10/659,712
Amendment Dated: February 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action Mailed: November 17, 2005
Attorney Docket No. 028987.52701US

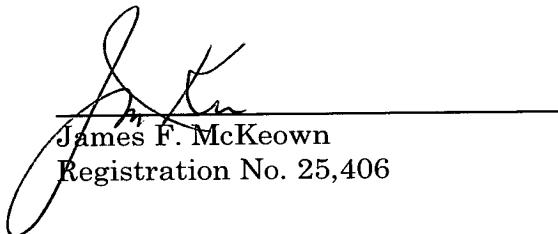
Early and favorable action is now earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028987.52701US).

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings: Please find an attached Replacement Page 3 showing Figure 4 of the drawings.